



US009220202B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Maxik et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,220,202 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 29, 2015**

(54) **LIGHTING SYSTEM TO CONTROL THE CIRCADIAN RHYTHM OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ASSOCIATED METHODS**

USPC 47/58.1 LS
See application file for complete search history.

(71) Applicant: **BIOLOGICAL ILLUMINATION, LLC**, Satellite Beach, FL (US)
(72) Inventors: **Fredric S. Maxik**, Cocoa Beach, FL (US); **Robert R. Soler**, Cocoa Beach, FL (US); **David E. Bartine**, Cocoa, FL (US); **Eliza Katar Grove**, Satellite Beach, FL (US); **Neil Yorrio**, Indian Harbour Beach, FL (US); **Anthony Crawford**, Palm Bay, FL (US)

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Primary Examiner — Monica Williams

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Mark Malek; Daniel Pierron; Wideman Malek, PL

(73) Assignee: **Biological Illumination, LLC**, Melbourne, FL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/487,489**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 16, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2015/0084524 A1 Mar. 26, 2015

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 13/681,522, filed on Nov. 20, 2012, and a continuation-in-part of

(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A01G 9/20 (2006.01)
A01G 7/04 (2006.01)

(Continued)

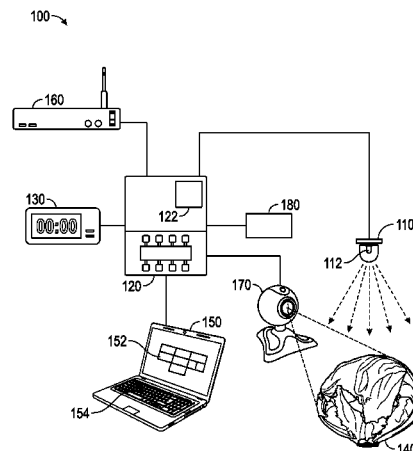
(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A01G 7/045** (2013.01); **H05B 33/0863** (2013.01); **H05B 33/0869** (2013.01); **H05B 37/0281** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A01G 1/00; A01G 1/001; A01G 9/20; A01G 7/04; A01G 7/045; A01G 7/06

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A lighting system comprising a light source, a controller operably coupled to the light source, and a timekeeping device operably coupled to the controller. The controller is configured to receive a selected action time associated with an agricultural product. The agricultural product includes an associated circadian rhythm defining an optimal action time range. The controller is configured to determine a lighting schedule responsive to the selected action time, the optimal action time range, and a time of day indicated by the time-keeping device, the lighting schedule being configured to impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product to shift the optimal action time range such that the selected action time coincides with the optimal action time range. The controller is configured to operate the light source according to the lighting schedule.

21 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

application No. 14/315,660, filed on Jun. 26, 2014, now Pat. No. 9,024,536, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 14/165,198, filed on Jan. 27, 2014, now Pat. No. 8,941,329, which is a continuation of application No. 13/311,300, filed on Dec. 5, 2011, now Pat. No. 8,686,641.

(60) Provisional application No. 61/948,185, filed on Mar. 5, 2014.

(51) Int. Cl.

H05B 37/02 (2006.01)

H05B 33/08 (2006.01)

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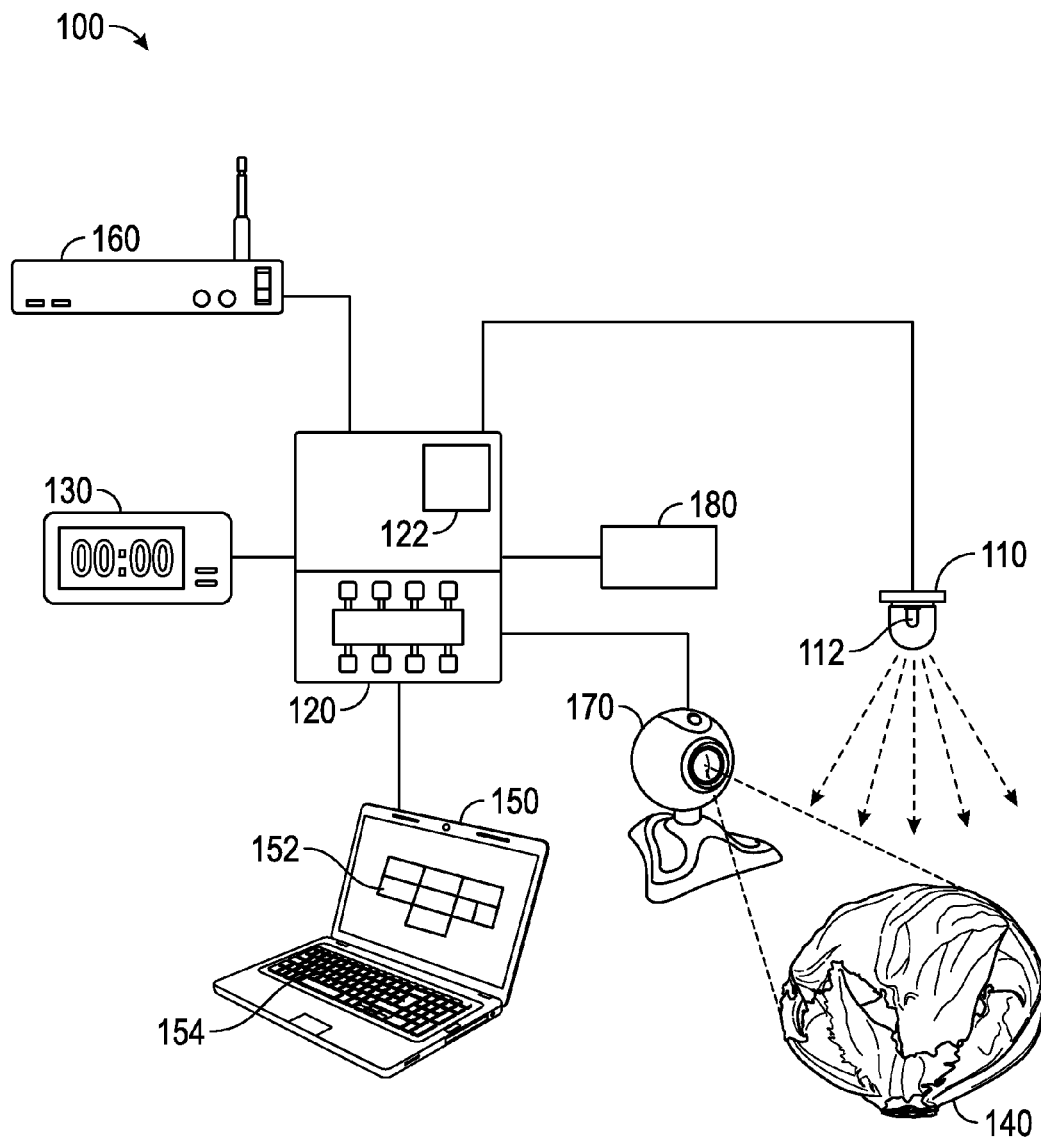
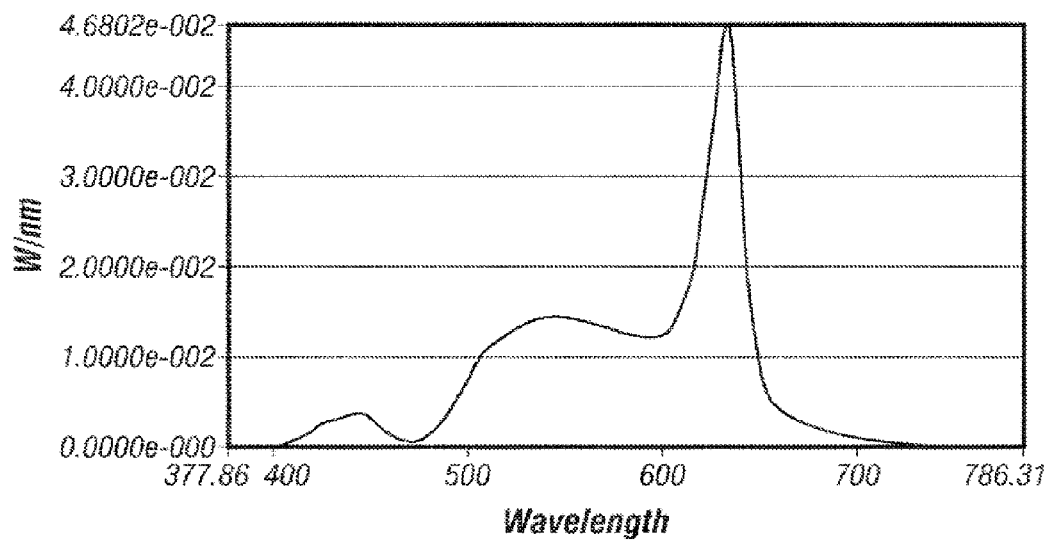
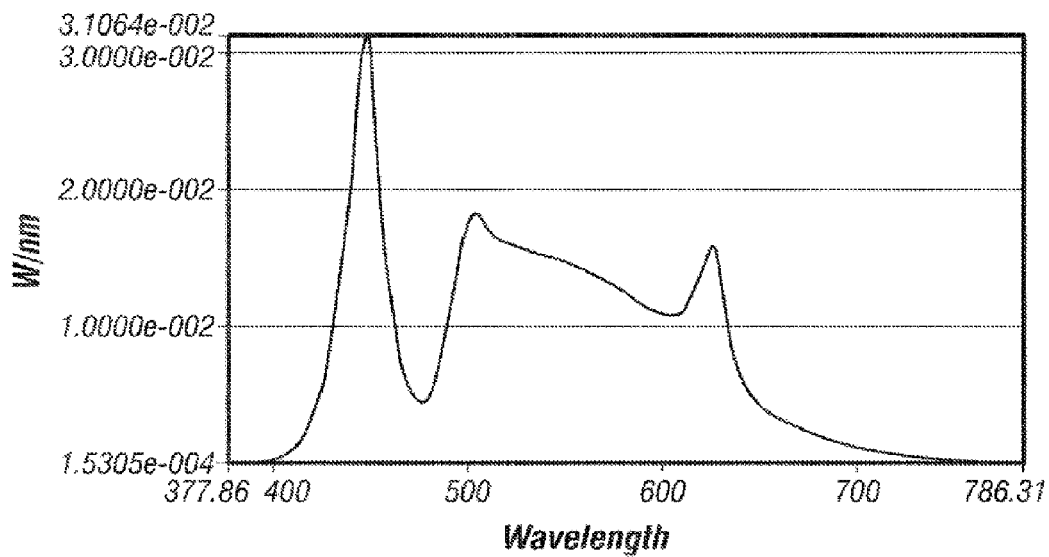
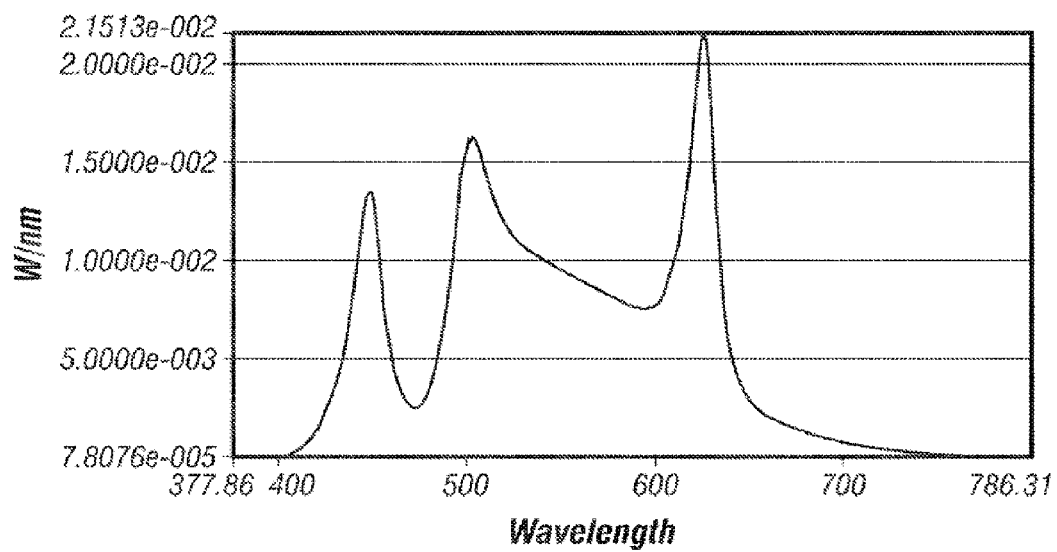
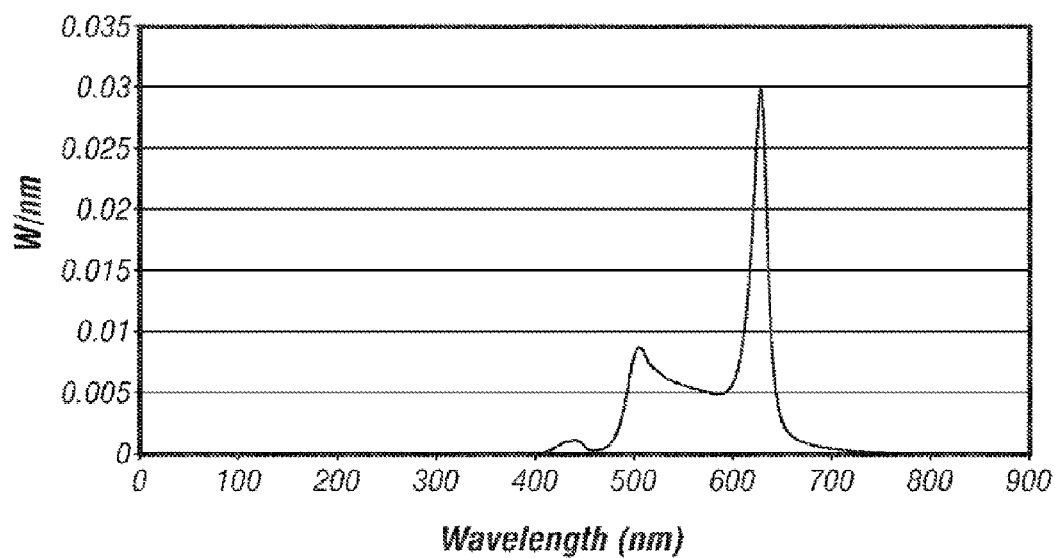
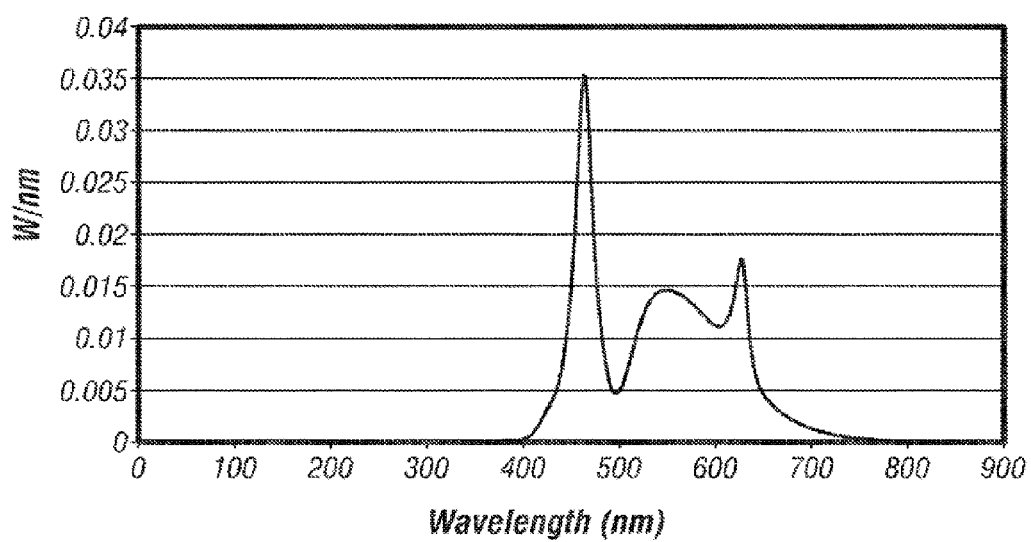
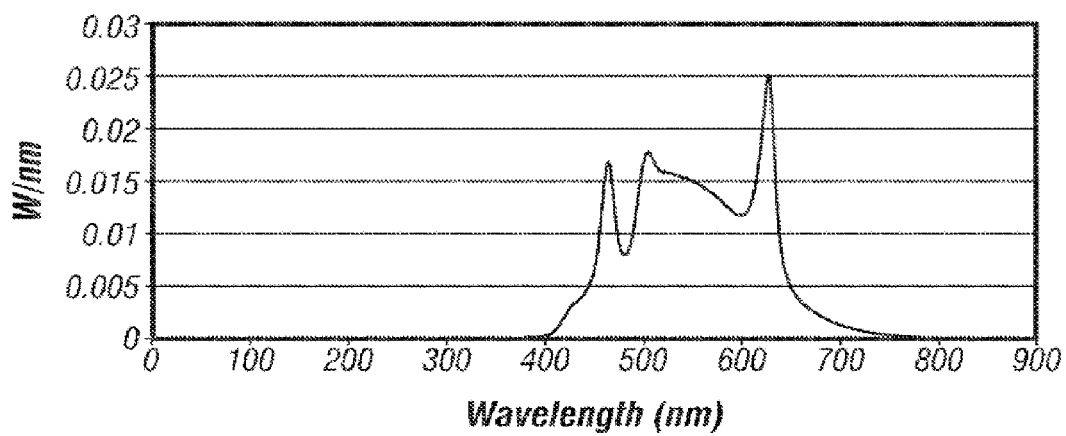
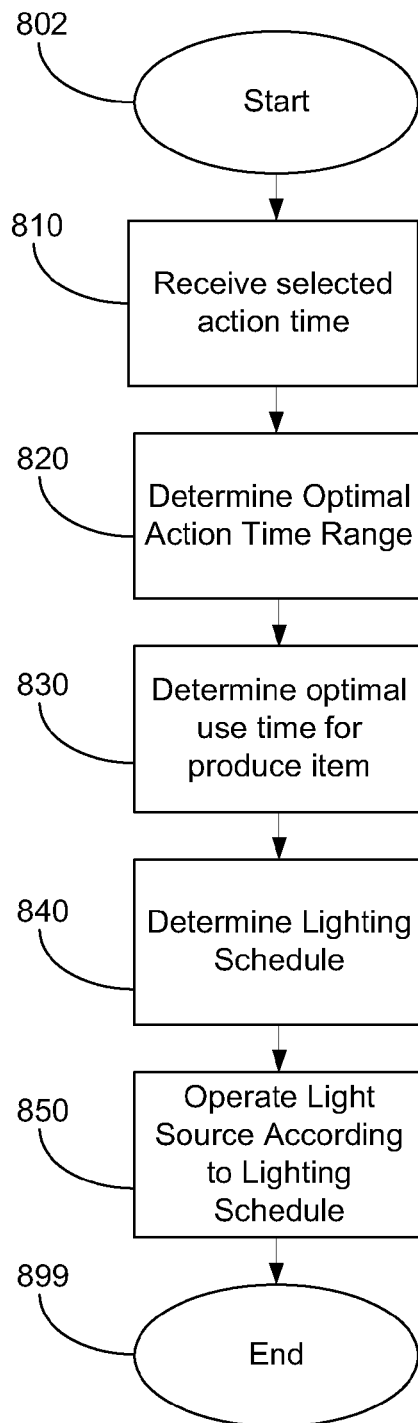


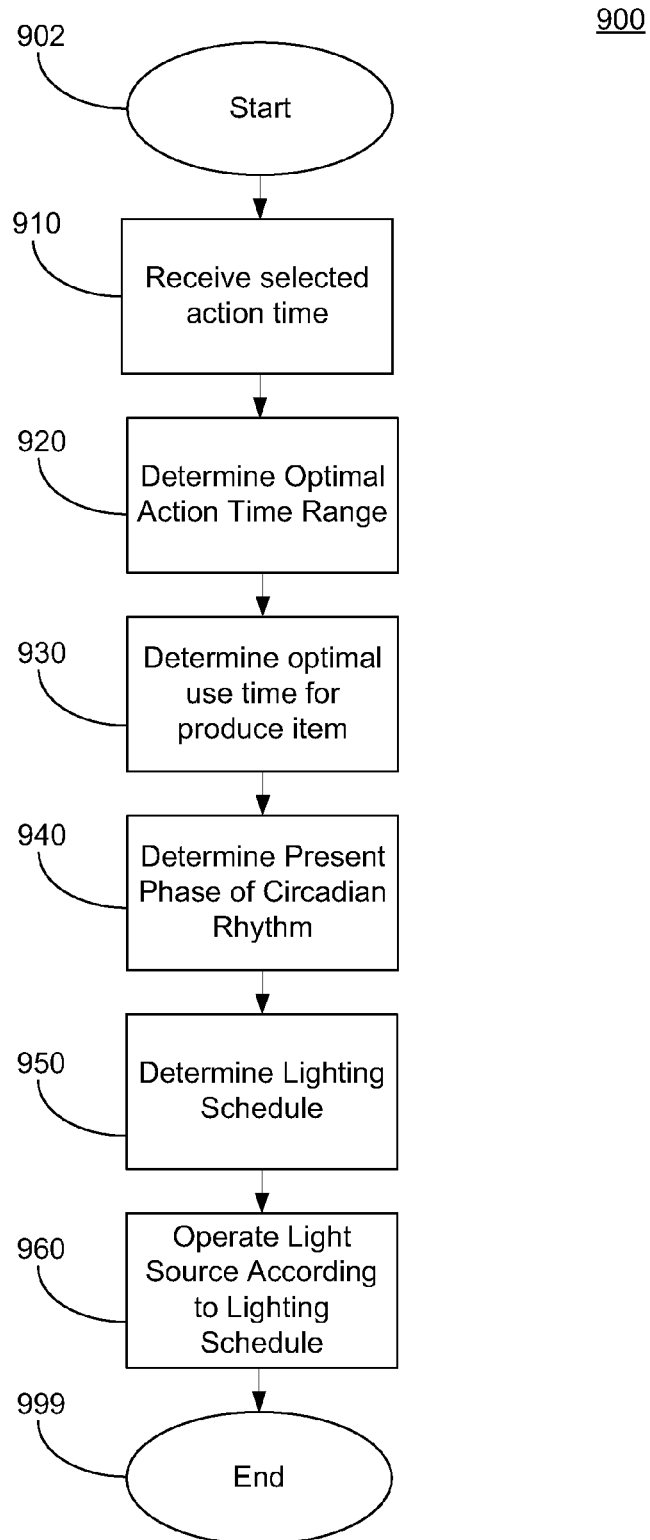
FIG. 1

**FIG. 2****FIG. 3**

**FIG. 4****FIG. 5**

**FIG. 6****FIG. 7**

800**FIG. 8**

**FIG. 9**

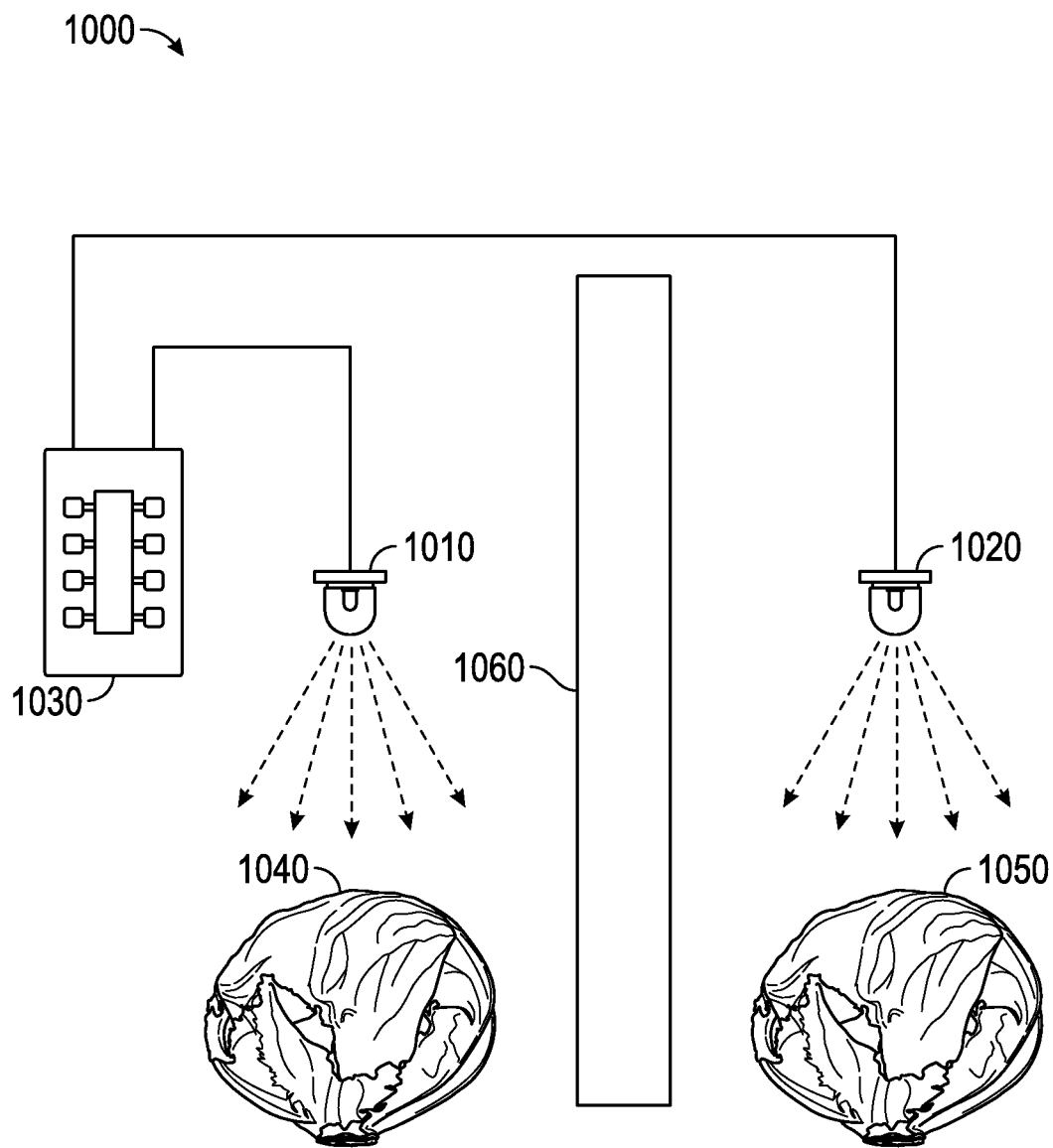


FIG. 10

1

LIGHTING SYSTEM TO CONTROL THE CIRCADIAN RHYTHM OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ASSOCIATED METHODS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part and claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/681,522 entitled Illumination and Grow Light System and Associated Methods filed Nov. 20, 2012 and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/315,660 entitled Tunable LED Lamp for Producing Biologically-Adjusted Light and Associated Methods filed Jun. 26, 2014, which in turn is a CIP of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/165,198 entitled Tunable LED Lamp for Producing Biologically-Adjusted Light filed Jan. 27, 2013, which is in turn a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/311,300, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,686,641 entitled Tunable LED Lamp for Producing Biologically-Adjusted Light filed Dec. 5, 2011, the contents of each of which are incorporated in their entirety herein by reference except to the extent disclosure therein is inconsistent with disclosure herein. Furthermore, this application is related to and claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/948,185 entitled System for Dynamically Adjusting Circadian Rhythm Responsive to Scheduled Events and Associated Methods filed Mar. 5, 2014, the content of which is incorporated in its entirety herein by reference except to the extent disclosure therein is inconsistent with disclosure herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to systems and methods for controlling the circadian rhythm of agricultural products.

BACKGROUND

The entrainment of agricultural products to selected circadian rhythms is a nascent field. Early evidence has demonstrated that the circadian rhythms of agricultural products can be controlled pre- and post-harvest, and that the concentration of certain phytochemicals accumulate cyclically in entrained agricultural products. However, current lighting systems having lighting configurations to entrain agricultural products have not demonstrated the capability of automated determination of lighting so as to entrain agricultural products, requiring manual operation of lighting devices to accomplish entrainment. Accordingly, there is a need in the art for a system capable of automatically determining a lighting schedule and emitting light according thereto so as to control the circadian rhythm of agricultural products.

This background information is provided to reveal information believed by the applicant to be of possible relevance to the present invention. No admission is necessarily intended, nor should be construed, that any of the preceding information constitutes prior art against the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

With the above in mind, embodiments of the present invention advantageously provide a lighting solution that is capable of enhancing the circadian rhythm of agricultural products. Embodiments of the present invention also advantageously allow for the control and of pre-harvest and postharvest circadian rhythm of agricultural products.

These and other features, advantages, and objectives according to embodiments of the present invention are pro-

2

vided by a lighting system comprising a light source, a controller operably coupled to the light source, and a timekeeping device operably coupled to the controller. The controller may be configured to receive a selected action time associated with an agricultural product. Furthermore, the agricultural product may include an associated circadian rhythm defining an optimal action time range. The controller may be configured to determine a lighting schedule responsive to the selected action time, the optimal action time range, and a time of day indicated by the timekeeping device. The lighting schedule may be configured to impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product to shift the optimal action time range such that the selected action time coincides with the optimal action time range. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to operate the light source according to the lighting schedule.

In some embodiments, the lighting schedule may comprise a day period and a night period. The controller may be configured to operate the light source in a day lighting configuration to emit light that causes the agricultural product to be in a day phase of the associated circadian rhythm in the day period and to operate the light source in a night lighting configuration to emit light that causes the agricultural product to be in a night phase of the associated circadian rhythm in the night period.

In some embodiments, the controller may be configured to operate the light source to emit light such that an output intensity level within the range from 380 nm to 480 nm is greater than 125% of a relative spectral power of any other peaks above 455 nm in the day configuration. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to operate the light source such that an output intensity level within the range from 380 nm to 480 nm is less than 10% of a relative spectral power of any other peaks above 485 nm in the night configuration. Additionally, the controller may be configured to operate the light source such that an output intensity level within the range from 380 nm to 480 nm is within the range from 20% to 100% of a relative spectral power of any other peaks above 485 nm in the observation configuration.

In some embodiments, the lighting system may further comprise a triggering device operably coupled to the controller and configured to indicate one of an active state and a standby state. The controller may be configured to operate the light source in an observation configuration to emit light that facilitates the observation of the agricultural product without affecting the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product responsive to the state indicated by the triggering device. Additionally, an indication of the standby state may cause the controller to operate the light source in one of the day lighting configuration and the night lighting configuration. Furthermore, an indication of the active state may cause the controller to operate the light source in the observation configuration.

In some embodiments, the optimal action time range may be associated with a chemical compound level of the agricultural product. Furthermore, the chemical compound may be selected from the group of secondary metabolites consisting of bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals. The lighting scheduled may be configured to at least one of maximize a chemical compound level of the agricultural product at the selected action time and minimize a chemical compound level of the agricultural product at the selected action time.

In some embodiments, the controller may be configured to determine the circadian rhythm for the agricultural product. The circadian rhythm for the agricultural produce may be determined by receiving as an input an indication of the species of the agricultural product. Additionally, the lighting system may further comprise an image capture device oper-

3

ably connected to the controller image recognition software configured to visually identify a species of the agricultural product. The controller may be configured to operate the image capture device to capture an image of the agricultural product. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to perform an agricultural product identification operation by using the image recognition software.

Embodiments of the present invention are additionally directed to a lighting system comprising a light source and a controller operably coupled to the light source. The controller may be configured to receive as an input a selected action time associated with an agricultural product. Additionally, the agricultural product may have an associated circadian rhythm defining an optimal action time range. In instances where the controller is configured to determine a lighting schedule responsive to the selected action time and the optimal action time range, the lighting schedule may be configured to impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product to shift the optimal action time range such that the selected action time coincides with the optimal action time range. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to operate the light source according to the lighting schedule.

In some embodiments according to the present invention, the optimal action time range may be associated with a chemical compound level of the agricultural product. The chemical compound may be selected from the group of secondary metabolites consisting of bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to determine a phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product. In such cases, the controller may be configured to determine a shifting schedule configured to shift the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product from the determined phase such that the optimal action time range corresponds with the selected action time. Additionally, the lighting system may further comprise a sensor operably coupled to the controller and positionable so as to detect physical characteristics of the agricultural product. The controller may be configured to operate the sensor so as to determine the phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product by measuring delayed fluorescence.

Additionally, in some embodiments, the agricultural product may comprise a first agricultural product and a second agricultural product. Furthermore, the light source may comprise a first light source positionable to emit light that is incident upon the first agricultural product and a second light source positionable to emit light that is incident upon the second agricultural product and not incident upon the first agricultural product. Light emitted by the first set of light sources may not be incident upon the second agricultural product. The controller may be configured to receive as an input a first selected action time associated with the first agricultural product and a second selected action time associated with the second agricultural product. Additionally, the first agricultural product may have an associated circadian rhythm defining a first optimal action time range and the second agricultural product may have an associated circadian rhythm defining a second optimal action time range. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to operate the first set of light sources so as to emit light that imposes a first circadian rhythm on the first agricultural product, thereby shifting the first optimal action time range, such that the first selected action coincides with the first optimal action time range. Additionally, the controller may be configured to operate the second set of light sources so as to emit light that imposes a second circadian rhythm of the second agricultural product, thereby shifting the second optimal action time range, such that the second selected action time coincides with the second

4

optimal action time range. In some embodiments, the first optimal action time range may be associated with a first chemical compound level of the first agricultural product and the second optimal action time range may be associated with a second chemical compound level of the second agricultural product. Furthermore, the first and second chemical compound levels may be selected from the group consisting of bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an environmental view of a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a relative spectral power distribution for a day lighting configuration for a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a relative spectral power distribution for a dusk lighting configuration for a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a relative spectral power distribution for an observation lighting configuration for a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a relative spectral power distribution for another day lighting configuration for a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a relative spectral power distribution for another dusk lighting configuration for a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a relative spectral power distribution for another observation lighting configuration for a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a flowchart illustrating a method of controlling a circadian rhythm of an agricultural product according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a flowchart illustrating another method of controlling a circadian rhythm of an agricultural product according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 is a schematic environmental view of a lighting system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. Those of ordinary skill in the art realize that the following descriptions of the embodiments of the present invention are illustrative and are not intended to be limiting in any way. Other embodiments of the present invention will readily suggest themselves to such skilled persons having the benefit of this disclosure. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout.

Although the following detailed description contains many specifics for the purposes of illustration, anyone of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that many variations and alterations to the following details are within the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the following embodiments of the invention are set forth without any loss of generality to, and without imposing limitations upon, the claimed invention.

In this detailed description of the present invention, a person skilled in the art should note that directional terms, such as "above," "below," "upper," "lower," and other like terms

5

are used for the convenience of the reader in reference to the drawings. Also, a person skilled in the art should notice this description may contain other terminology to convey position, orientation, and direction without departing from the principles of the present invention.

Furthermore, in this detailed description, a person skilled in the art should note that quantitative qualifying terms such as “generally,” “substantially,” “mostly,” and other terms are used, in general, to mean that the referred to object, characteristic, or quality constitutes a majority of the subject of the reference. The meaning of any of these terms is dependent upon the context within which it is used, and the meaning may be expressly modified.

Throughout the detailed description, reference may be made to an agricultural product, which includes all types of goods as are producible through the cultivation of plants, including goods intended for ingestion, medical use, use in other products, or any other purpose as is known in the art. Furthermore, the term “agricultural products” includes all stages of such products, including those that are in the process of germinating, sprouting, growing, flowering, and post-harvest.

An embodiment of the invention text, as shown and described by the various figures and accompanying text, provides a lighting system that is configured to control biological rhythms of agricultural products through the emission of light having certain characteristics. More specifically, the lighting system may sequentially emit light having varying characteristics so as to entrain agricultural products to a particular biological rhythm, such as a circadian rhythm. Furthermore, the lighting system may be configured to entrain the agricultural products so as to coordinate the biological rhythm of the agricultural product **140**, more specifically an optimal action time range associated with the biological rhythm, with a selected action time. Additionally, the lighting system may be configured to emit light that has a biological effect so as to affect a characteristic of the agricultural products.

Referring now to FIG. 1, a lighting system **100** according to an embodiment of the present invention is presented. The lighting system **100** may comprise a light source **110**, a controller **120**, and a timekeeping device **130**. The light source **110** may be any type of light-emitting device that is operable to emit light having the characteristics recited hereinbelow. Types of light-emitting devices contemplated by the invention include, but are not limited to, light-emitting semiconductor, such as light-emitting diodes (LEDs), incandescence, halogens, fluorescents (including compact fluorescents), halogens, and high-energy discharge lighting devices. In the present embodiment, the light source **110** comprises an LED die **112**. The LED die **112** may comprise a plurality of LEDs. Additionally, in some embodiments, the light source **110** may comprise a plurality of LED dies. Additional information regarding the composition the light source **110** may be found in U.S. Pat. No. 8,686,641 and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/315,660, the disclosure of each of which are incorporated by reference hereinabove. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the LED die **112** may comprise one or more color conversion materials configured to alter characteristics of light emitted by the LEDs. Additional information regarding color conversion materials may be found in U.S. Pat. No. 8,408,725 titled Remote Light Wavelength Conversion Device and Associated Methods filed Sep. 16, 2011, the content of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety except to the extent disclosure therein is inconsistent with disclosure herein.

The controller **120** may be operably coupled to the light source **110** and configured to control the operation thereof.

6

More specifically, the controller **120** may be configured to control the operation of the light source **110** so as to cause the light source **110** to emit light having certain characteristics. More specifically, the controller **120** may be configured to cause the light source **110** to emit light so as to entrain the circadian rhythm of an agricultural product **140**.

Additionally, in some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** to periodically change the light emitted by the light source **110**. The periodicity with which the controller **120** operates the light source **110** may be configured to simulate a circadian rhythm. In some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** with a 24-hour periodicity. Other periods, including those greater than and less than 24 hours, are contemplated and included within the scope of the invention. For example, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** to emit light having certain characteristics in a first configuration, referred to as a day lighting configuration, for a first period of time so as to have a first biological effect, and to emit light having other characteristics in a second configuration, referred to as a night lighting configuration, for a second period of time so as to have a second biological effect. In some embodiments, the first and second biological effects may affect the production of chemical compounds the agricultural product **140**. The first and second periods of time may total 24 hours in sum. The day lighting configuration may have similarities to daylight, and the night lighting configuration may have characteristics similar to night typically experience in the night time, such as moonlight. More specifically, the day lighting configuration may have an increased relative spectral intensity of light within a blue wavelength range relative to the spectral intensity within the blue wavelength range in the night lighting configuration. Moreover, the intensity of light in the day lighting configuration may be greater than the intensity of light in the night lighting configuration. Furthermore, other lighting configurations are contemplated, including, but not limited to, configurations that emulate sunrise lighting characteristics, dusk lighting characteristics, and emitting no light.

To maintain periodicity, the controller **120** may be operably coupled to the timekeeping device **130**. The timekeeping device **130** may be configured to provide an indication of the passage of time to the controller **120** which the controller **120** may operate the light source **110** responsive to. The timekeeping device **130** may be any type of timekeeping device as is known in the art. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the timekeeping device **130** may be integrated with the controller **120** or any constituent element thereof.

In some embodiments, the optimal action time range may be a range of time when a characteristic of the agricultural product **140** is desirable. Such characteristics may include levels of chemical compounds contained within the agricultural product **140**, changes in physical structures of the agricultural product **140**, and a variety of secondary characteristics emanating therefrom. The chemical compounds contained within the agricultural product **140** may comprise a primary or secondary metabolite produced by the agricultural product **140**. Types of secondary metabolites contemplated by the invention include, but are not limited to, bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals. In some embodiments, the optimal action time range may be one of maximizing and minimizing the level of the chemical compound within the agricultural product **140**. The length of the optimal action time range may vary by a number of factors, including species or variety of the agricultural product **140**, characteristic of the agricultural product **140** that is being optimized, a threshold

determination for what is or is not considered to be an optimal range for the characteristic, the extent to which the agricultural product **140** can be entrained to maintain the optimal range of the characteristic, and potential detriments to such entrainment on the agricultural product **140**.

In some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured to receive an input. The input may be received by any means as is known in the art. In some embodiments, the lighting system **100** may further comprise a user interface device **150**. The user interface device **150** may be positioned in communication with the controller **120** and configured to provide information to and receive input from a user. In some embodiments, the user interface device **150** may include a display **152** and a user input device **154**. In other embodiments, the user interface device **150** may include a touch-screen. Input received by the user interface device **150** may be provided to the controller **120** which may operate the light source **110** responsive thereto.

In some embodiments, the lighting system **100** may comprise a network communication device **160** positioned in communication with the controller **150**. The network communication device **160** may be configured to communicate with remote computerized devices across a network, including, but not limited to, a personal area network, a local area network, a wide area network, the Internet, including an Internet area network. Furthermore, the network communication device **160** may be configured to communicate across a network by any means or method known in the art, including wired standards such as Ethernet, Universal Serial Bus (USB), and IEEE 1394, and wireless standards such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Zigbee, cellular data communication, WiMAX, LTE, visible light communication, acoustic communication, and any other wireless communication standard as is known in the art.

The network communication device **160** may be configured to transmit and receive information related to the operation of the lighting system **100** to a remote computerized device. More specifically, the network communication device **160** may be configured to transmit a request for an input from a user related to the operation of the lighting system **100**, receive an input from the user responsive to the request, and to send at least one of the input and an indication of the input to the controller **120**, which may then operate the light source **110** responsive thereto. In such embodiments, the remote computerized device may include software configured to communicate with the lighting system **100** across a network. The remote computerized device may be any type of device capable of presenting a request for input from a user and receiving input therefrom, including, but not limited to, a personal computer, a smartphone, a tablet computer, and the like.

The controller **120** may be configured to receive an input by any means or method described hereinabove related to a selected action time. The selected action time may indicate the time at which a user desires an action to be performed with relation to the agricultural product **140**. The type of action associated with the selected action time may be any type that is related to the agricultural product **140**, including, but not limited to, planting, application of fertilizer, application of water, pollination, harvest, consumption, and preparation for consumption. The selected action time may indicate a time of day at which it is desired for the action to take place. In some embodiments, the selected action time may additionally indicate a date as well as the time on which the action is desired to take place.

The controller **120** may be configured to determine a circadian rhythm for the agricultural product **140** such that the

selected used time may coincide with the optimal action time range. The controller **120** may further be configured to determine a lighting schedule that may impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product **140** to shift the optimal action time range associated with the present circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140** so as to coincide with the selected use time. The controller **120** may further be configured to operate the light source **110** responsive to the lighting schedule so as to emit light that imposes a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product **140** such that the optimal action time range of the agricultural product **140** coincides with the selected action time. In some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured to emit lighting according to the lighting schedule in repetition. Furthermore, the controller **120** may be configured to continue emitting light according to the lighting schedule in repetition until a replacement lighting schedule is determined, or the controller **120** receives an instruction to cease emitting light according to the lighting schedule.

As discussed hereinabove, the lighting schedule may be configured to have a periodicity comporting to a biological rhythm of the agricultural product **140**, such as a circadian rhythm. Moreover, the lighting schedule may be configured to mimic various phases of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140**. For example, the lighting schedule may include a day period and a night period. The controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** in the day lighting configuration in the day period so as to cause the agricultural product **140** to be in a day phase of its associated circadian rhythm. Furthermore, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** in the night lighting configuration in the night period so as to cause the agricultural product **140** to be in a night phase of its associated circadian rhythm. It is contemplated and included within the scope of the invention that any number any type of phases may be included in the circadian rhythm for the agricultural product **140**, and that a corresponding period in the lighting schedule may similarly be included, as well as an attending lighting configuration.

In some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured to determine the circadian rhythm for the agricultural product **140**, as well as the optimal action time range associated therewith. In some further embodiments, the controller **120** may determine the circadian rhythm for the agricultural product **140** by receiving an input from the user. The input may include an indication as to the species or variety of the plant. In some embodiments, the controller **120** may comprise a memory **122** having stored thereon a database of species or variety of plants for which associated circadian rhythms and optimal action time ranges associated therewith. Responsive to an indication of the species or variety of the plant, the controller **120** may be configured to reference the memory **122** so as to determine a circadian rhythm for the indicated species or variety. The controller **120** may further be configured to operate the light source **110** responsive to the determined circadian rhythm such that the optimal action time range coincides with the selected action time.

In some embodiments, a circadian rhythm associated with the identified species or variety may comprise two or more optimal action time ranges. That is to say, there may be two or more time ranges that present an optimal range for a characteristic of the agricultural product **140** for which the species or variety is indicated. In such embodiments, the input received by the controller **120** may further include an indication as to which characteristic of the agricultural product **140** is sought to be controlled. The controller **120** may be configured to determine the circadian rhythm of the indicated species or

variety as well as the optimal action time range associated with the indicated characteristic, and operate the light source **110** responsive to the determined optimal action time range associated with the determined circadian rhythm such that the determined optimal action time range coincides with the selected action time.

Furthermore, in some embodiments, it may be desired for two or more actions to be performed, one subsequent to the other. Additionally, the associated optimal action time ranges for the actions may be the same, or they may be different. For example, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** in a first configuration so as to have a first biological effect in the agricultural product **140** and in a second configuration so as to have a second biological effect in the agricultural product **140**. Each of the first and second biological effects may be affecting the production of a chemical compound in the agricultural product **140**. Additionally, the controller **120** may be configured to receive as an input a first selected action time associated with the first biological effect and a second selected action time associated with the second biological effect. The controller **120** may further be configured to determine first and second optimal action time ranges for each of the first and second biological effects, respectively. The first and second biological effects may be associated with first and second phases of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140**, respectively. Moreover, the controller **120** may be configured to determine a lighting schedule such that the first optimal action time range coincides with the first selected action time and the second optimal action time range coincides with the second selected action time. The controller **120** may further be configured to operate the light source **110** responsive to the lighting schedule.

In some embodiments, where the lighting system **100** comprises a network communication device **160**, the controller **120** may be configured to access a database of species or variety of plants for which associated circadian rhythms and optimal action time ranges associated therewith stored on a remote memory that is accessible by the controller **120** via the network communication device **160**.

In some embodiments, the lighting system **100** may further comprise an image capture device **170**. The image capture device **170** may be positioned so as to create an image of the agricultural product **140**. Furthermore, the image capture device **170** may be operably connected to the controller **120**, and the controller **120** may be configured to operate the image capture device **170** so as to capture an image of the agricultural product **140**. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured so as to operate the light source **110** so as to emit an illuminating light configured to facilitate the capturing of an image thereof by the image capture device **170**. The illuminating light may have a color rendering index of 90 or greater.

Additionally, the lighting system **100** may further comprise image recognition software. The image recognition software may be configured to identify a species or variety of the agricultural product **140** from the image captured thereof. More specifically, the controller **120** may be configured to perform an agricultural product identification operation by executing the image recognition software and analyzing a captured image of the agricultural product **140**. In some embodiments, the image recognition software may be stored on the memory **122** associated with the controller **120**. In some embodiments, the image recognition software may be stored on a remote database. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured to capture an image of the agricultural product **140**, send the captured

image to a remote computerized device for the identification of the species or variety of the agricultural product **140** via the network communication device **160**, and receive an indication of the species or variety of the from the remote computerized device via the network communication device **160**.

In some embodiments, the lighting system **100** may further comprise a triggering device **170**. The triggering device **170** may be operably coupled to the controller **120**. Furthermore, the triggering device **170** may be configured to provide an indication to the controller **120** related to a status for which the triggering device **170** is configured to monitor. The triggering device **170** may be configured to indicate one of an active state and a standby state to the controller **120**. Furthermore, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** responsive to the indication received from the triggering device **170**. In some embodiments, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** in an observation lighting configuration responsive to an indication of an active state from the triggering device **170**. The observation lighting configuration may comprise characteristics of light that facilitates the observation of the agricultural product **140**. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the observation lighting configuration may be configured to minimize or avoid affecting the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140**. Additionally, the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** in at least one of the day and night lighting configurations responsive to an indication of a standby status from the triggering device **170**. The triggering device **170** may be at least one of an occupancy sensor, a motion detector, a device configured to monitor whether a door, window, or other portal is opened or closed, a temperature sensor, a humidity sensor, an acoustic sensor, an optical sensor, a magnetic sensor, and an identification system.

In some embodiments, the lighting system **100** may further be adapted to determine a present phase of the circadian rhythm in the agricultural product **140**. For example, the lighting system **100** may comprise a sensor **180** configured to measure a characteristic of the agricultural product **140** so as to determine the present phase of the circadian rhythm thereof. In some embodiments, the sensor **180** may be an optical sensor, and the controller **120** may be configured to operate the light source **110** to emit light that may cause the agricultural product **140** to exhibit delayed fluorescence. The sensor **180** may be configured to measure the delayed fluorescence of the agricultural product **140** and provide an indication of the measured delayed fluorescence to the controller **120**. Furthermore, the controller **120** may be configured to determine a present phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140**. Additionally, the controller **120** may be configured to determine a lighting schedule responsive to the present phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140**.

FIG. 2 shows a power spectral distribution of a lighting system in a dusk lighting configuration, in accordance with another embodiment presented. The night lighting configuration shown in FIG. 2 may be produced by an array of LED dies in the 3:3:2:1 ratio, driven as follows: (1) three cyan LEDs driven at 7.65V, 66 mA, 0.16679 radiant flux; (2) three mint LEDs driven parallel at 11.13V, 951 mA, 1.8774 radiant flux; (3) two red-orange LEDs driven at 4.375V, 998 mA, 0.96199 radiant flux; and (4) one royal blue LED driven at 2.582V, 30 mA, 0.0038584 radiant flux. The total luminous flux may be 1.024e+003 l m. The total radiant flux may be 3.0239e+000 W. The dominant wavelength may be 580.3 nm. The general CRI is 87.30. The color temperature may be 2871 K. The 1931 Coordinates (2°) are x: 0.4649, y: 0.4429. The luminous power per radiant watt may be 338 lumens per

radiant watt. Other arrays of LEDs operable to emit light having the characteristics recited hereinabove are contemplated and included within the scope of the invention.

FIG. 3 shows a power spectral distribution of a lighting system in a day lighting configuration, in accordance with one embodiment presented. The day lighting configuration shown in FIG. 3 may be produced by an array of LED dies in the 3:3:2:1 ratio, driven as follows: (1) three cyan LEDs driven at 8.19V, 235 mA, 0.47233 radiant flux; (2) three mint LEDs driven parallel at 11.14V, 950 mA, 1.9047 radiant flux; (3) two red-orange LEDs driven at 3.745V, 147 mA, 0.1845 radiant flux; and (4) one royal blue LED driven at 2.802V, 525 mA, 0.69093 radiant flux. The total luminous flux may be 9.879e+002 lm. The total radiant may be 3.2138e+000 W. The dominant wavelength is 495.6 nm. The peak wavelength may be 449.7 nm. The general CRI is 87.42. The color temperature may be 6,599 K. The 1931 Coordinates (2°) are x: 0.3092, y: 0.3406. The luminous power per radiant watt may be 307 lumens per radiant watt. Other arrays of LEDs operable to emit light having the characteristics recited hereinabove are contemplated and included within the scope of the invention.

FIG. 4 shows a power spectral distribution of an LED lamp in an observation lighting configuration, in accordance with one embodiment presented. The observation lighting configuration shown in FIG. 4 may be produced by an array of LED dies in the 3:3:2:1 ratio, driven as follows: (1) three cyan LEDs driven at 8.22V, 211 mA, 0.44507 radiant flux; (2) three mint LEDs driven parallel at 10.06V, 499 mA, 1.1499 radiant flux; (3) two red-orange LEDs driven at 3.902V, 254 mA, 0.34343 radiant flux; and (4) one blue LED driven at 2.712V, 190 mA, 0.27280 radiant flux. The total luminous flux may be 7.192e+002 lm. The total radiant flux may be 2.2248e+000 W. The dominant wavelength may be 566.2 nm. The peak wavelength may be 625.9 nm. The general CRI may be 93.67. The color temperature may be 4897 K. The 1931 Coordinates (2°) are x: 0.3516, y: 0.3874. The luminous power per radiant watt may be 323 lumens per radiant watt. Other arrays of LEDs operable to emit light having the characteristics recited hereinabove are contemplated and included within the scope of the invention.

FIGS. 5-7 show the power spectral distributions corresponding respectively to the day, dusk, and observation lighting configurations of the lighting system in accordance with another embodiment of the invention. The lighting system in this embodiment may comprise a light source with a ratio of Cyan, Mint, Red, and Blue dies of 3:3:2:3 respectively. The spectral output of the lamp according to each configuration is adjusted by generating radiant fluxes from multiple dies as described below. Other ratios of LEDs of various colors that may emit light having desired characteristics, including those recited hereinbelow, are contemplated and included within the scope of the invention.

FIG. 5 shows a power spectral distribution of a lighting device in a dusk lighting configuration, in accordance with another embodiment presented. The dusk lighting configuration shown in FIG. 5 may be produced by an array of LED dies in the 3:3:2:3 ratio, driven as follows: (1) three cyan LEDs driven at 7.83V, 91 mA, to generate 0.2048 radiant watts; (2) three mint LEDs driven parallel at 9.42V, 288 mA, 0.6345 radiant watts; (3) two red-orange LEDs driven at 4.077V, 490 mA, 0.5434 radiant watts. The dominant wavelength may be 581.4 nm. The general CRI may be 71. The color temperature may be 2719 K. The luminous power per radiant watt may be 331 lumens per radiant watt. The efficacy may be 91 lumens per watt.

FIG. 6 shows a power spectral distribution of an LED lamp in a day lighting configuration, in accordance with another embodiment presented. The day lighting configuration shown in FIG. 6 may be produced by an array of LED dies in the 3:3:2:3 ratio, driven as follows: (1) three mint LEDs driven parallel at 11.27V, 988 mA, 1.679 radiant watts; (2) two red-orange LEDs driven at 3.78V, 180 mA, 1.971 radiant, and (3) three blue LEDs driven at 9.07V, 296 mA, 0.8719 radiant watts. The dominant wavelength may be 476.9 nm. The general CRI may be 88. The color temperature may be 6235 K. The luminous power per radiant watt may be 298 lumens per radiant watt. The efficacy may be 63 lumens per watt.

FIG. 7 shows a power spectral distribution of an LED lamp in an observation lighting configuration, in accordance with another embodiment presented. The observation lighting configuration shown in FIG. 7 may be produced by an array of LED dies in the 3:3:2:3 ratio, driven as follows: (1) three cyan LEDs driven at 8.16V, 218 mA, to generate 0.4332 radiant watts; (2) three mint LEDs driven parallel at 11.23V, 972 mA, 1.869 radiant watts; (3) two red-orange LEDs driven at 3.89V, 295 mA, 0.3520 radiant watts. The dominant wavelength may be 565.6 nm. The general CRI may be 90. The color temperature may be 4828 K. The luminous power per radiant watt may be 335 lumens per radiant watt. The efficacy may be 68 lumens per watt.

In an alternative embodiment, in the day lighting configuration, the intensity levels of blue component in the 455 nm to 485 nm range may be greater than about 125% of the relative spectral power of any other peaks in the visible light spectrum higher than 485 nm. In alternative embodiments, the blue component in the 455 nm to 485 nm range may be greater than about 150%; or about 175%; or about 200%; or about 250%; or about 300% of the relative spectral power of any other peaks in the visible light spectrum higher than 485 nm. The color rendering index may be greater than 80. By varying the radiant fluxes of one or more of the dies, for example by varying the current drawn by the dies, the intensity of the blue component relative to other spectral peaks greater than 485 nm may be adjusted to the desired level.

In an alternative embodiment, in the night lighting configuration, the controller may be configured to operate the plurality of LED dies such that a blue output intensity level, in a visible spectral output range of between about 380 nm and about 485 nm, is less than about 10% of a relative spectral power of any other peaks in the visible spectral output above about 485 nm. For example, the controller may drive the plurality of LED dies such that about 150 mA of current is delivered to the mint LED dies; about 360 mA of current is delivered to the red LED dies; and about 40 mA of current is delivered to the cyan LED dies.

In an alternative embodiment, in the observation lighting configuration, the intensity levels of blue component in the 380 nm to 485 nm range is preferably about 100% of the relative spectral power of any other peaks in the visible light spectrum higher than 485 nm. In alternative embodiments, the intensity levels of blue component in the 380 nm to 485 nm range is preferably less than about 100%; or less than about 90%; or less than about 80%; or between about 20% to about 100% of the relative spectral power of any other peaks in the visible light spectrum higher than 485 nm. The color rendering index may be greater than 85.

Referring now to FIG. 8, a flowchart illustrating a method 800 of controlling a circadian rhythm of an agricultural product is presented. The method 800 may be performed by a lighting system as described in various embodiments disclosed hereinabove. Reference to various elements of a lighting system in the method 800 may be performed by analogous

13

elements included in the disclosure hereinabove. Beginning at Block **802**, a controller may receive a selected action time for an agricultural product at Block **810**. At Block **820**, an optimal action time range associated with the agricultural product **140** may be determined by the controller.

Continuing at Block **830**, an optimal action time range within which the selected action is preferably performed may be determined for the agricultural product **140**. At Block **840**, a lighting schedule responsive to at least the selected action time and the optimal action time range may be determined so as to impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product **140**. The lighting schedule may comprise emitting light in a first lighting configuration, such as the day lighting configuration, for a first period of time, and emitting light in a second lighting configuration, such as the night lighting configuration, for a second period of time. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to operate the light source responsive to the lighting schedule in repetition until a replacement lighting schedule is determined or any other indication for the controller to cease emitting light according to the lighting schedule. In some embodiments, the determination of a lighting schedule may comprise determining a present time as indicated by a timekeeping device and determining the lighting scheduled further responsive to the present time. At Block **850**, the controller may operate a light source so as to emit light according to the lighting schedule. The method **800** may end at Block **899**.

Referring now to FIG. **9**, a flowchart illustrating a method **900** of controlling a circadian rhythm of an agricultural product is presented. The method **900** may be performed by a lighting system as described in various embodiments disclosed hereinabove. Reference to various elements of a lighting system in the method **900** may be performed by analogous elements included in the disclosure hereinabove. Beginning at Block **902**, a controller may receive a selected action time for an agricultural product at Block **910**. At Block **920**, an optimal action time range associated with the agricultural product **140** may be determined by the controller.

Continuing at Block **930**, an optimal action time range within which the selected action is preferably performed may be determined for the agricultural product **140**. At Block **940**, the present phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140** may be determined. Then, at Block **950**, a lighting schedule responsive to at least the selected action time, the optimal action time range, and the present phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product **140** may be determined so as to impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product **140**. The lighting schedule may comprise emitting light in a first lighting configuration, such as the day lighting configuration, for a first period of time, and emitting light in a second lighting configuration, such as the night lighting configuration, for a second period of time. Furthermore, the controller may be configured to operate the light source responsive to the lighting schedule in repetition until a replacement lighting schedule is determined or any other indication for the controller to cease emitting light according to the lighting schedule. In some embodiments, the determination of a lighting schedule may comprise determining a present time as indicated by a timekeeping device and determining the lighting scheduled further responsive to the present time. At Block **960**, the controller may operate a light source so as to emit light according to the lighting schedule. The method **900** may end at Block **999**.

Referring now to FIG. **10**, a lighting system **1000** according to another of the invention is presented. The lighting system **1000** may comprise a first light source **1010**, a second light source **1020**, and a controller **1030** operably coupled to

14

each of the first and second light sources **1010**, **1020**. The controller **1030** may be configured to operate each of the first and second light sources **1010**, **1020** as the controller **120** is configured to operate the light source **110** described hereinabove for the embodiment of FIG. **1**. Moreover, the controller **1030** may be configured to operate each of the first and second light sources **1010**, **1020** independently of one another.

The first light source **1010** may be positioned and configured to emit light that is incident upon a first agricultural product **1040**, and the second light source **1020** may be positioned and configured to emit light that is incident upon a second agricultural product **1050**. In some embodiments, light emitted by the first light source **1010** may be incident upon only the first agricultural product **1040** and not upon the second agricultural product **1050**, and light emitted by the second light source **1020** may be incident upon only the second agricultural product **1050** and not upon the first agricultural product **1040**. In some embodiments, a partition **1060** may be positioned so as to prevent light emitted by the first light source **1010** from being incident upon the second agricultural product **1050** and/or to prevent light emitted by the second light source **1020** from being incident upon the first agricultural product **1040**. In other embodiments, light emitted by the first light source **1010** may be incident upon each of the first and second agricultural products **1040**, **1050**, and light emitted by the second light source **1020** may also be incident upon each of the first and second agricultural products **1040**, **1050**. The first and second agricultural products **1040**, **1050**, may be of the same species or variety, or they may be of different species or variety.

The controller **1030** may be configured to operate the first light source **1010** so as to impose a first circadian rhythm on the first agricultural product **1040** and the second light source **1020** so as to impose a second circadian rhythm upon the second agricultural product **1050**. Furthermore, the controller **1030** may be configured to receive as an input a first selected action time associated with the first agricultural product **1040** and a second selected action time associated with the second agricultural product **1050**. Furthermore, the controller **1030** may be configured to determine first and second optimal action time ranges associated with each of the first and second agricultural products **1040**, **1050**, respectively, as described hereinabove in previous embodiments. Furthermore, the controller **1030** may be configured to determine first and second lighting schedules for the respective first and second agricultural products **1040**, **1050**. The controller **1030** may further be configured to operate each of the first and second light sources **1010**, **1020** according to the first and second lighting schedules, respectively. The first and second lighting schedules may be different, or they may be the same.

In some embodiments, the controller **1030** may be configured to determine different characteristics within each of the first and second agricultural products **1040**, **1050** for which the first and second optimal action time ranges are determined. More specifically, the controller **1030** may be configured to determine the first optimal action time range for a first characteristic in the first agricultural product **1040** and the second optimal action time range for a second characteristic in the second agricultural product **1050**. The first and second characteristics by the same, or they may be different. In some embodiments, the first characteristic may be a first chemical compound level in the first agricultural product **1040** and the second characteristic may be a second chemical compound level in the second agricultural product **1050**.

While the present embodiment depicts a lighting system capable of entraining two agricultural products, lighting sys-

15

tems capable of entraining any number of agricultural products are contemplated and included within the scope of the invention.

Some of the illustrative aspects of the present invention may be advantageous in solving the problems herein described and other problems not discussed which are discoverable by a skilled artisan.

While the above description contains much specificity, these should not be construed as limitations on the scope of any embodiment, but as exemplifications of the presented embodiments thereof. Many other ramifications and variations are possible within the teachings of the various embodiments. While the invention has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the invention without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it is intended that the invention not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed as the best or only mode contemplated for carrying out this invention, but that the invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims. Also, in the drawings and the description, there have been disclosed exemplary embodiments of the invention and, although specific terms may have been employed, they are unless otherwise stated used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention therefore not being so limited. Moreover, the use of the terms first, second, etc. do not denote any order or importance, but rather the terms first, second, etc. are used to distinguish one element from another. Furthermore, the use of the terms a, an, etc. do not denote a limitation of quantity, but rather denote the presence of at least one of the referenced item.

Thus the scope of the invention should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents, and not by the examples given.

That which is claimed is:

1. A lighting system comprising:

a light source;

a controller operably coupled to the light source; and

a timekeeping device operably coupled to the controller;

wherein the controller is configured to receive a selected action time associated with an agricultural product;

wherein the agricultural product includes an associated circadian rhythm defining an optimal action time range;

wherein the controller is configured to determine a lighting

schedule responsive to the selected action time, the opti-

mal action time range, and a time of day indicated by the

timekeeping device, the lighting schedule being config-

ured to impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural

product to shift the optimal action time range such that

the selected action time coincides with the optimal

action time range;

wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source according to the lighting schedule; and

wherein the controller is configured to determine a phase of

the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product;

wherein the controller is configured to determine a shift-

ing schedule configured to shift the circadian rhythm of

the agricultural product from the determined phase such

that the optimal action time range corresponds with the

selected action time.

2. The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein the lighting schedule comprises a day period and a night period;

16

wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source in a day lighting configuration to emit light that causes the agricultural product to be in a day phase of the associated circadian rhythm in the day period; and wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source in a night lighting configuration to emit light that causes the agricultural product to be in a night phase of the associated circadian rhythm in the night period.

3. The lighting system according to claim 2 wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source to emit light such that an output intensity level within the range from 380 nm to 480 nm is greater than 125% of a relative spectral power of any other peaks above 455 nm in the day configuration.

4. The lighting system according to claim 2 wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source such that an output intensity level within the range from 380 nm to 480 nm is less than 10% of a relative spectral power of any other peaks above 485 nm in the night configuration.

5. The lighting system according to claim 2 further comprising a triggering device operably coupled to the controller and configured to indicate one of an active state and a standby state; wherein the controller is further configured to operate the light source in an observation configuration to emit light that facilitates the observation of the agricultural product without affecting the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product responsive to the state indicated by the triggering device; wherein an indication of the standby state causes the controller to operate the light source in one of the day lighting configuration and the night lighting configuration; and wherein an indication of the active state causes the controller to operate the light source in the observation configuration.

6. The lighting system according to claim 5 wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source such that an output intensity level within the range from 380 nm to 480 nm is within the range from 20% to 100% of a relative spectral power of any other peaks above 485 nm in the observation configuration.

7. The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein the optimal action time range is associated with a chemical compound level of the agricultural product.

8. The lighting system according to claim 7 wherein the chemical compound is selected from the group of secondary metabolites consisting of bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals.

9. The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein the lighting scheduled is configured to at least one of maximize a chemical compound level of the agricultural product at the selected action time and minimize a chemical compound level of the agricultural product at the selected action time.

10. The lighting system according to claim 1 wherein the controller is configured to determine the circadian rhythm for the agricultural product.

11. The lighting system according to claim 10 wherein the circadian rhythm for the agricultural product is determined by receiving as an input an indication of the species of the agricultural product.

12. The lighting system according to claim 10 further comprising:

an image capture device operably connected to the controller; and

image recognition software configured to visually identify a species of the agricultural product;

wherein the controller is configured to operate the image capture device to capture an image of the agricultural product; and

17

wherein the controller is configured to perform an agricultural product identification operation by using the image recognition software.

13. A lighting system comprising:

a light source; and

a controller operably coupled to the light source;

a sensor operably coupled to the controller and positionable so as to detect physical characteristics of the agricultural product;

wherein the controller is configured to receive as an input a selected action time associated with an agricultural product;

wherein the agricultural product has an associated circadian rhythm defining an optimal action time range;

wherein the controller is configured to determine a lighting schedule responsive to the selected action time and the optimal action time range, the lighting schedule being configured to impose a circadian rhythm on the agricultural product to shift the optimal action time range such that the selected action time coincides with the optimal action time range;

wherein the controller is configured to operate the sensor so as to determine a phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product by measuring delayed fluorescence; and

wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source according to the lighting schedule and the phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product.

14. The lighting system according to claim **13** wherein the optimal action time range is associated with a chemical compound level of the agricultural product.

15. The lighting system according to claim **14** wherein the chemical compound is selected from the group of secondary metabolites consisting of bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals.

16. The lighting system according to claim **13** wherein: the agricultural product comprises a first agricultural product and a second agricultural product;

the light source comprises a first light source positionable to emit light that is incident upon the first agricultural product and a second light source positionable to emit light that is incident upon the second agricultural product and not incident upon the first agricultural product; light emitted by the first set of light sources is not incident upon the second agricultural product;

the controller is configured to receive as an input a first selected action time associated with the first agricultural product and a second selected action time associated with the second agricultural product;

the first agricultural product has an associated circadian rhythm defining a first optimal action time range and the second agricultural product has an associated circadian rhythm defining a second optimal action time range;

the controller is configured to operate the first light source so as to emit light that imposes a first circadian rhythm on the first agricultural product, thereby shifting the first

18

optimal action time range, such that the first selected action coincides with the first optimal action time range; and

the controller is configured to operate the second light source so as to emit light that imposes a second circadian rhythm of the second agricultural product, thereby shifting the second optimal action time range, such that the second selected action time coincides with the second optimal action time range.

17. The lighting system according to claim **16** wherein the first optimal action time range is associated with a first chemical compound level of the first agricultural product and the second optimal action time range is associated with a second chemical compound level of the second agricultural product.

18. The lighting system according to claim **17** wherein the first and second chemical compound levels are selected from the group consisting of bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals.

19. A lighting system comprising:

a controller;

a light source operably coupled to the controller; and

a timekeeping device operably coupled to the controller;

wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source so as to emit light in one of a first configuration and a second configuration;

wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source to emit light so as to have a first biological effect in an agricultural product in the first configuration;

wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source to emit light so as to have a second biological effect in the agricultural product in the second configuration;

wherein the controller is configured to determine a lighting schedule responsive to a time of day indicated by the timekeeping device, the lighting schedule comprising emitting light in the first configuration for a first period of time associated with a first phase of a circadian rhythm of the plant and emitting light in the second configuration for a second period of time associated with a second phase of the circadian rhythm of the agricultural product;

wherein the controller is configured to operate the light source responsive to the lighting schedule; and

wherein the first biological effect affects production of a first chemical compound;

and wherein the second biological effect affects production of a second chemical compound.

20. The lighting system according to claim **19** wherein each of the first and second chemical compounds are selected from the group consisting of bioprotectants, terpenes, and nutraceuticals.

21. The lighting system according to claim **19** wherein the lighting schedule further comprises emitting no light for a third period of time.

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